Launching of INSAT-2E and INSAT-3A Satellites

1017. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to advance the proposed launch of INSAT-2E and INSAT-3A satellites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have made any study to assess the extent of damage to our space programme due to abandonment of INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The loss of Indian National Satellite-2D (INSAT-2D) has led to a temporary shortage of transponder capacity in the INSAT System. This has affected the expansion of certain services such as Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) communications. The capacity shortage has been partially overcome by the commissioning of INSAT-2DT (previously ARABSAT-1C) which was procured and located at 55 degree E longitude. Further improvement in the position will occur when INSAT-2E is launched in the fourth quarter of 1998 and INSAT-3B in the first half of 1999.

Achievement in Space Technology

1018. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has attained newer heights in space technology after launching IRS-1D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what has been the track record of Antrix Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-1D (IRS-1D) was launched on September 29, 1997 using our own, indigenously made Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Sriharikota Range (SHAR), near Chennai. This is the first time that an operational satellite has been launched with our own launch vehicle. India, thus attained newer heights in space technology by having an end-to-end capability in launching state-of-the-art 1-tonne class remote sensing satellites into polar sun-synchronous orbit. IRS-1D provides in-orbit continuity to IRS-1C launched earlier during December 1995 by a Russian launch vehicle. IRS-1D with its 5.8 metre resolution panchromatic camera payload provides the highest ever spatial resolution information in the civilian domain. Together with the multi-spectral 23 metre Linear Imaging Self Scanner-3 camera and the coarser 188 metre resolution with large swath of 810 kms. Wide Field Sensor (WiFS) cameras, IRS-1D provides a unique opportunity for the user community to address various applications of direct relevance in land and water resources management.

(c) Antrix Corporation Ltd., (ACL) was incorporated on 28.9.1992 as a wholly owned Government of India Private Ltd., Company under the Companies Act, 1956, to take over the commercial and trading activities of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). ACL is under the administrative control of the Department of Space and is engaged in marketing Space Products and Services developed by ISRO, both in the International and domestic markets.

Due to its sustained marketing efforts, the company was able to make an entry into and establish a market for Indian Space Products and Services in the highly competitive and technology-oriented international market.

During the last 6 years, the Company has made substantial progress in widening

the range and volume of Space Products and Services offered for sale.

In terms of financial track record, ACL earns a major portion of its income in foreign exchange. The company has been running profitably from the first year of its establishment. In compliance with the Government of India's objective of deriving adequate return on its investments in Central Public Sector Undertakings, the Company has paid dividend @ 20% and 92% for the years ended 31.3.1996 and 31.3.1997 respectively.

Agreement on Sharing of Ganga Water with Bangladesh

1019. SHRI JOYANTA ROY:
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent agreement with Bangladesh regarding the sharing of Ganga waters is seriously damaging the Calcutta Port because of acute shortage of inflow of water in the lean period;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would like to review this agreement; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to maintain navigability of the Calcutta Port throughout the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Treaty on Ganga water sharing has been in operation for the two lean seasons of 1997 & 1998. A period of two years is not adequate to determine the effect of the Treaty on the navigability of Calcutta Port.

(c) The Treaty signed in December 1996 provides for first review after two years. Hence, first review of the Treaty is open to both the parties only after December, 1998.

(d) Does not arise.

Augmentation of ground water In Yamuna river

1020. SHRI VEDPRASKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to augment the flow of ground water in Yamuna river in Delhi, the construction of Renuka Dam on Giri in Himachal Pradesh had been recommended by CWC on priority basis;

(b) if so, the present position of this project; and

(c) when the work on this project is likely to be started and completed so that Delhi can get adequate water from Yamuna river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A Technical Committee, headed by Member (Water Planning), Central Water Commission, set up by the Ministry of Urban Development recommended taking up of the Renuka dam project for augmentation of water supply in Delhi.

(b) A detailed project report for construction of the Renuka dam project was received in Central Water Commission (CWC) during April 1993 from Government of Himachal Pradesh. CWC offered its comments on the report for compliance by the State. Compliance of the State Government in form of a modified estimate was received in CWC during August 1997. Further comments of CWC on the cost aspects of the project were sent to the State Government during April 1998 and reply from Government of Himachal Pradesh is awaited.

(c) The work on this project can be started after techno-economic and other clearances are obtained by the State Government and investment clearance is accorded by the Planning Commission. Thereafter, if the funds are made available as per requirement, Government of Himachal Pradesh has